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**CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEY-CLIENT  
PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION**

Date: FEBRUARY 5, 2004

To: EXAMINER SHEFALI D. PATEL  
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Fax #: (703) 872-9315

From: DARRIN WESLEY HARRIS  
Fax #: (847) 905-7111

Client/Matter No.: PHF 99,548 (7790/275)

# of Pages: 46  
(including cover sheet)

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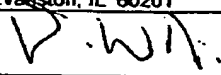
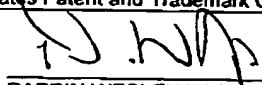
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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Attorney Docket No.	PHF 99,548 (7790/275)
	Application Number	09/587,394
	Filing Date	JUNE 5, 2000
	First Named Inventor	RAOUL FLORENT
	Group Art Unit	2621
	Examiner	PATEL, SHEFALI D.

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)  <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter  <input type="checkbox"/> Petition for Extension of Time Request (duplic) <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request  <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449, art <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawings: Replacement Sheet 1/3  <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Petition Routing Slip (PTO/SB/69) and Accompanying Petition <input type="checkbox"/> To Convert a Provisional Application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Request of Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences  <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)  <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Post Card Receipt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Enclosure(s) (please identify below): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marked-up Specification <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute Specification <input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1713. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I hereby petition under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) for any extension of time required to ensure that this paper is timely filed. Please charge any associated fees which have not otherwise been paid to Deposit Account No. 50-1713. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.		

## CALCULATION OF FEE

				Small Entity		Large Entity			
	Claims After Amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Rate	Add'l Fee	or	Rate	Add'l Fee
Total		Minus		0	x \$9=	0		x \$18=	
Indep.		Minus		0	x \$43	0		x \$86	
First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim					+ \$145	—		+ \$290=	
					total add'l fee	\$ 0		total add'l fee	\$

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm or Individual name	DARRIN WESLEY HARRIS Registration No. 40,636 CARDINAL LAW GROUP 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 2000 Evanston, IL 60201		
Signature		Date	February 5, 2004
CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE			
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Signature		Date: February 5, 2004	
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DARRIN WESLEY HARRIS (40.636)  
Name of applicant, assignee or registered representative  
[Signature]  
Signature  
February 5, 2004  
Date of Signature

PATENT  
Case No. PHF 99,548  
(7790/275)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: )  
 )  
RAOUL FLORENT )  
 )  
Serial No.: 09/587,394 ) Examiner: PATEL, SHEFALI d  
 )  
Filed: JUNE 5, 2000 ) Group Art Unit: 2621  
 )  
For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD )  
AND SYSTEM, AND MEDICAL )  
EXAMINATION APPARATUS, )  
FOR EXTRACTING A PATH )  
FOLLOWING A THREADLIKE )  
STRUCTURE IN AN IMAGE )

RESPONSE TO A FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED NOVEMBER 5, 2003

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to a Final Office Action dated November 5, 2003, please amend  
the above referenced application as follows and reconsider the application in light of  
the following remarks.